

# FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



**ST DAVID'S**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL



## A MESSAGE FROM MRS SYRADD, OUR HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents,

The mornings are starting to get a little lighter with the promise that Spring is on its way. Please ensure that your children have their coats, hats, scarves and gloves until the warmer days arrive.

How can we be half way through the year? The days are racing by and the half-term has been another busy one filled with enthusiastic learning and a variety of events.

We were pleased to welcome the Police to lead a Road Safety assembly earlier this term. Many thanks to all of you who have signed the petition to ask the council to implement improved safety measures outside of school.

We are at the time in the year where we are inviting prospective Nursery and Reception parents for September 2025 and beyond to sign up. We ran a successful 'Stay and Play' and are holding an 'Outdoor Learning Stay and Play' after Easter. If you know of anyone interested in joining our wonderful school, please ask them to contact the School Office.

Our new breakfast club has been a great success since January and a delicious Valentine's breakfast was on offer this morning. Many thanks to Mrs Thomas and Miss Colyer for running this. Please look out for more special breakfast events

coming soon and book these via the website. We are also excited to announce the launch of our new Holiday Club starting this Easter - further details available later in this newsletter.

This term we have focused on 'Dreams and Goals' and were treated to a fantastic class assembly by Form 3 who reminded us that we can be anything we want to be.

We have enjoyed an array of trips and visitors including Pizza Express and combining with Royal Russell Juniors for an Art workshop. Last week, I had the delight of joining Form 6 at the O2 for the Young Voices concert, which was a fabulous evening.

I wish you a lovely half-term break with your families and look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 24th February for another busy half-term with our St David's Day Annual celebrations and World Book Day to name just a couple of exciting events in the diary.

Mrs Sarah Syradd  
Head Teacher



*"All your dreams can come true if you have the courage to pursue them," Walt Disney.*



## BOYS' FOOTBALL

Our team showed great determination in the Croydon League, battling hard and growing in resilience. Facing strong opposition, we've learned valuable lessons that will help us improve in future matches.



## HOCKEY

Our F3 & F4 teams travelled to Oakhyrst to take on Mr Smith. They were able to celebrate outstanding victories, winning both of the year group mini-tournaments! Meanwhile, our F5 & F6 teams took on tough competition from Elmhurst and Royal Russell, showing great skill and determination - our hockey talent is thriving!



## GIRLS' FOOTBALL

The team had a fantastic run in the Croydon Cup, only missing out in a heart-breaking loss with the last kick of the game vs St Cyprians! We're currently sitting in second place in the Croydon League, with one final game left to play.



## SWIMMING

Our first swimming event of the year was a huge success, with many pupils competing courageously in the Croydon Swimming Qualifiers. Miss Colyer and Mr. Dobson were incredibly proud of their effort and sportsmanship, with Sophia and Rosanna shining as they finished 2nd in their heats!



## THE RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS TRIATHLON ASSEMBLY

The Schools Triathlon team visited us for an assembly. F3-6 were presented with the exciting opportunity to take part at the Restless Development Schools Triathlon in April. Last year, we raised nearly £4,000, and this time, we're aiming to beat that record!

## NETBALL

A series of mixed netball fixtures saw us compete fiercely, especially against a strong Croydon High team. The B team secured an impressive win, inspiring both boys and girls to train even harder with Miss Cadogan at our club sessions!



## CROSS COUNTRY

The first race in the Woodcote Series finally took place, and it was an exciting morning of competition! Our runners embraced the chilly challenge, enjoying the chance to race alongside other dedicated athletes. There are two more Series events taking place which are open to all pupils in F3-6. Please keep an eye out for the sign-up email!

## CONCLUSION TO THIS HALF TERM

This half term has been packed with exciting sports fixtures, showcasing some incredible performances from our talented pupils. With an even busier second half of the term ahead, we can't wait for more success and memorable moments!



# SCHOOL TRIPS

## FORM 5 TRIP TO THE ROYAL RUSSELL ART WORKSHOP

Form 5 were invited to Royal Russell junior school to join in with an urban photography workshop, as part of a collaborative project between the two schools. On the day, we roamed the grounds and took photos of the various buildings with our iPads. Since then we have been using Canva to collage the photos we took, turning them into dragons. We took inspiration from a local artist, Glenn Foster, who uses urban photography as the basis for his intricate photo collages, which celebrate Croydon.



## FORM 6 TRIP TO YOUNG VOICES AT THE O2

Form 6 went to the O2 and sang 12 different wonderful and energetic song arrangements, which we rehearsed in class. When we arrived, we experienced the luxury of having a premium box seat, where we had an excellent view of the stage - especially the stunning light displays, involving 8000 children all waving their torches in time with the music. We sung amongst the largest children's choir in England. Afterwards, overjoyed with happiness, we waited eagerly with excitement to be released from the stadium to meet our parents in order to tell them about the wonderful experience.

Written by Vasillis and Ayaan



## RECEPTION TRIP TO PIZZA EXPRESS PURLEY

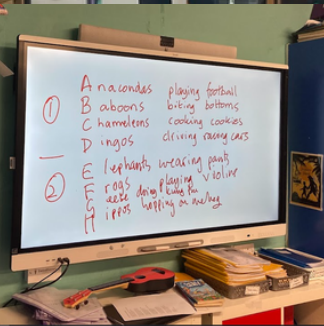
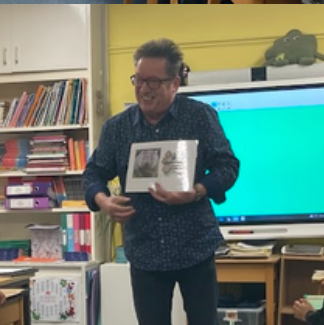
Reception children had a fantastic experience on their trip to Pizza Express. They enjoyed learning how to stretch the dough and carefully add ingredients to create their own pizzas. Each child had the opportunity to take their pizza home, which added to the excitement of the day.

We would like to extend a big thank you to the parents who volunteered to help—your support and time are greatly appreciated!





# VISITING POET: PAUL COOKSON



Paul Cookson (Poet and Author) visited St David's this week to do Poetry workshops with Forms 3 to 6. Each class created their own poem and performed it. There was lots of fun and laughter along the way! Aaran in Form 5 said "We created a hilarious poem, I really enjoyed it." Alice in Form 6 said, "It was a fantastic experience and he definitely boosted my confidence with poetry."



# FORM 5 TRIP TO LOVE LANGUAGES- A WIN!

On Thursday 13th February, 11 members of Form 5 travelled to City of London Freeman's for their annual Love Languages competition. Our children performed a play about a group of lunchbox items debating who should be included in a young girl's packed lunch. With acting, singing and dancing - entirely in French! Our children performed extremely well against the other schools in the Year 5-6 division and won first place! We were very proud of them for their hard work and dedication!



# CHINESE NEW YEAR

Nursery and Reception had a wonderful time celebrating Chinese New Year, immersing themselves in the traditions and festivities of this special occasion. The children in Nursery got creative with Lunar New Year snake finger paintings and crafted beautiful lantern collages using a variety of textured materials. They also explored Chinese numbers by threading colourful pasta, developing their fine motor skills while learning about numerals. Meanwhile, Reception children made stunning red lanterns symbolising good luck and decorated their own red envelopes, representing prosperity and happiness. They practiced using chopsticks to pick up rice and pom-poms, strengthening their coordination and had fun writing Chinese numbers. A delicious Chinese meal at lunchtime, complete with fortune cookies, made the celebration even more exciting. It was a fantastic day of learning, creativity and cultural exploration, bringing joy and good fortune to all!





# ASSEMBLIES

This week has been Safer Internet Day in which Mrs Syradd spoke about online scams, pop ups and unwanted messages.



The children joined Mrs Syradd in a quiz during assembly to ensure that they always know to tell a trusted adult if they are worried or frightened about anything that they see online.

Please see the poster for internet safety advice for parents to discuss with their children.



## FORM 3 CLASS ASSEMBLY

Form 3 really did themselves proud with their assembly this half term. They practised hard and it really showed on the day. We took the opportunity to share our own hopes and dreams for the future, performed a moving story about a hippopotamus who never gave up hope and achieved his dreams, shared our own creative writing work including informal letters, recipes for success and poetry, as well as performing our own rendition of When I Grow Up from Matilda. Well done Form 3!



## FORMS 1 AND 4 SHARING ASSEMBLY

In their sharing assembly, Forms 1 and 4 read together and shared their work with one another.

Form 1 had written stories of Jack and the Beanstalk in their own words and read them out to Form 4. The older children used a story map to help the children retell the tale in their own words using more detail, which used a wider variety of words thus helping them improve their vocabulary.



## ROAD SAFETY ASSEMBLY



We have been particularly focusing on road safety and awareness recently to keep our children safe walking to and from School. This half term, the Police came in to school and led an assembly on road safety. They helped us recognise traffic signs, and taught us the meanings of different road markings.





## MUSIC EXAM SUCCESS THIS HALF TERM

- Alexa (4)** Piano grade 2 - pass  
**Isla (4)** Violin grade 2 - pass  
**Isla (6)** Singing grade 2 - pass  
**Jada (4)** Piano grade 2 - merit  
**Kyra (4)** Piano grade 2 - merit  
**Esmee (4)** Singing grade 2 - pass

If your child has any music/ performance exam successes, please let Mr Urie know so we can celebrate their achievements.

We had a fantastic informal concert on Wednesday 29th January. Talent was demonstrated by pianists Hannah, Zara, Ellora, Jada and Leo. Audrey played the clarinet and Abi shared her violin playing with everyone. Both parents and children thoroughly enjoyed the concert and we look forward to the next one in March.

### Informal Concert: Tuesday 25th March 3:40pm – 4:10pm

Children will be able to sign up for an after school Informal Concert in the Music room on:

The sign-up sheet will be in the music room and once children have signed up, parents are cordially invited to come up to the music room and watch the performances of the children.

## Form 5 Booster Groups

### Maths: Mr Raffield

18th Feb, 25th Feb, 4th March

### Verbal Reasoning: Mr Muringapasi

19th Feb, 26th Feb, 5th March

### English: Miss Varndell

20th Feb, 27th Feb, 6th March

## Form 6 Lifelab Sessions

Last Session- Tuesday 25th Feb

Perfect Pitch Tuesday 11th March, 2-3.30pm

Enterprise Fair Presentations to the school 12th March

## Clubs

Commence week beginning Monday 24th February

## Swimming - Form 6

Wednesday afternoons

26th February - 2nd April (Not Wednesday 19th March)

## DATE LIST (SECOND HALF TERM)

### Friday 28th February

St David's Day

### Wednesday 5th March

World Book Day

### Thursday 6th March

Form 1 Class Assembly and Bookshare

### Friday 7th March

Nursery Trip to Little Street

Dogs Trust Workshops

### Monday 10th - Friday 14th March

Science Week

### Thursday 13th March

Science Boffins Workshops

RSHE Meeting for F5&6 Parents

### Friday 14th March

Dogs Trust Workshops

### Monday 17th March

Form 4 to CSI Easter

### Wednesday 19th- 21st March

Form 4 to Carrotty Wood

### Monday 24th March

Visiting French Theatre Company Forms 3 - 6

### Tuesday 25th March

Informal Concert

### Thursday 27th March

Mothers Day Assembly with Reception

### Friday 28th March

Eid Al-Fitr Day in EYFS

Form 1 Trip to Hever Castle

### Monday 31st March

Form 5 Trip to Knole House

### Tuesday 1st April

Form 2 Trip to Brooklands Museum

### Thursday 3rd April

Form 2 Class Assembly and Bookshare

Form 3 Trip to British Wildlife Centre

### Friday 4th April

Last Day of Spring Term

### Monday 7th- Tuesday 22nd April

Easter Break (Return Wednesday 23rd April)

## STAFF UPDATES

We send our warmest "Get well soon" to Mrs Palfreyman, who is recovering well from a knee operation just before the beginning of term. We hope she will be able to join us in school again once she is fully recovered.

We would like to say a big thank you to those members of staff who have helped cover all the extra-curricular clubs in Mrs Palfreyman's absence this term so far.



# PTA UPDATE

As we reach the first half term of the new year, we'd like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support. This half term has seen the PTA committee busily beaver away at planning events for the rest of the year. However, we have still managed to pack in one of our favourite days in the PTA calendar "Break the Rules". We have thoroughly enjoyed watching all the children breaking the rules, with their vibrant hair dos, tattoos, juice filled bottles and fun socks.

Next half term will see the arrival of a new event "Easter Bonnet Parade and Competition". We wanted to create a way of including a traditional Easter parade alongside a more contemporary approach - the Easter raffle.

We cannot wait to see your wonderful creations. Please remember to submit a photo of your completed bonnet, chosen category and brief explanation of your inspiration by 21st March at 8pm. Remember, for those children who do not want to create a bonnet, they are still very welcome to take part in the Easter Raffle. Please refer to classlist for more details.

We also look forward to the "Adult Quiz Night" on the 28th March. This is another wonderful opportunity to meet other families of the St David's community. We must warn you; we are a competitive lot when it comes to a quiz! So please do join us and watch out for tickets on classlist, we would love to see as many of you there.

You may have recently seen via your class rep a call out for a sub-committee. This sub-committee will focus on our beloved summer fair. We are looking for any volunteers who have fresh ideas and plans for our summer fair. If you think that you may be able to support in any way then please do reach out to your rep.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you an enjoyable half term.

*Best wishes  
Manolee and Deepa*



## PTA DATES

**Wednesday 12th March**

Bag2School Collection

**Friday 21st March**

Easter Bonnet Photo Submission Deadline

**Friday 28th March**

Adult Quiz Night

**Saturday 29th March**

Second Hand Uniform Sale (10am-12pm)



# Secret SPIES

As a school, we have been focusing on respectful transitions around school, coming in to assembly sensibly and lining up quietly at the end of break times. We have also focused on showing kindness and courtesy to one another, remembering our manners, saying please and thank you, holding doors open for one another and so on. For the first week of promoting this we enlisted our PLT as secret spies to watch out for pupils who were doing this well and, in our Celebration assembly, we then awarded them a Dragory to say well done. This week the teachers have enlisted a secret spy within each of their classes to catch pupils doing the right thing. Visit our social media to see who has been chosen!

## PLAYGROUND UPDATES

Many thanks to the PTA who have agreed to support our continued Playground refurbishment. We have had a number of companies visit and are now eagerly awaiting their designs and quotes to start the next process of deciding on some climbing equipment.



# DRAGONS WRAPAROUND CARE

## BREAKFAST CLUB

## AFTER SCHOOL



We are thrilled with the ongoing growth of Dragons Wrap Around Care, including our successful After School Club and the fantastic launch of our Breakfast Club this term. A special thank you to everyone who joined us for our Valentine's Day themed breakfast on February 14th; it was a wonderful morning filled with fun and delicious treats.

We are excited to be launching our very own Holiday Club here at St David's. We are planning to run this for a week over Easter (7th-11th April) and, provided we have enough interest, for 4 weeks over the Summer holidays. It will be open to children aged 3-11years. The club is open to our pupils but we will also welcome children from outside St David's so please recommend us to family and friends.

The club will be run by the same team who have been successfully running the holiday club at Royal Russell and some of our after school club staff will be supporting the running of it. Please see the flyer within the newsletter and around school. Bookings go live after half term.

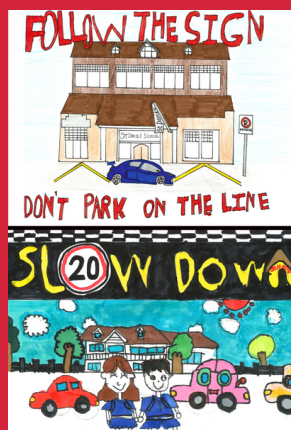


## ROAD SAFETY UPDATES

Thank you for your support with signing our road safety petition. We received 370 signatures which makes it eligible to be submitted for the next Council meeting on 16th April. We will keep you updated once Mrs Syradd has attended the meeting.

Furthering our initiative regarding Road Safety and awareness, we have our winners from the Traffic Safety Competition... Mrs Thompson and Mrs Grant, our

Governors, selected 2 pupils from the shortlisted winners to have their posters made into banners to be displayed outside school. Congratulations to **Micòl** (F3) and **Aryan** (F5) for their beautiful designs and to everyone who submitted an entry!



**Form 1** have been creating artwork inspired by Dragons and Castles.

**Form 2** have been looking at British artists, including Ted Harrison and David Hockney.

**Form 3** made vibrant Sun and Moon pictures inspired by Aztec and Mya imagery.

**Form 4** have nearly finished their abstract chalk portraits.

**Form 5** have been learning how to collage photos using Canva to create dragons.

**Form 6** made colourful Pop-Art word collages inspired by Lichtenstein and Warhol.

**WE HOPE EVERYONE HAS A RESTFUL FEBRUARY HALF TERM. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL BACK ON MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2025.**